CIA: Is CIA Becoming a Sacred Cow?

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

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OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Mr. MADDEN. Mr. Speaker, the Congress after the experience of recent years is justified in becoming alarmed over the power and secret operations without congressional oversight of the mysterious powers of the Central Intelligence Agency.

A RIGHT TO FIND OUT

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee should push on with its attempt to become more of a watchdog over the super-secret central Intelligence Agency. For years the CIA has been regarded as a mysterious, untouchable arm of government. In one sense that the function that way. Sples must remain under cover, and we need sples. However, there have been CIA steps into the policy level where the more wisely grounded legislative arm should exercise more control.

Sen. Eugene McCarthy's resolution to upgrade the subcommittee now ineffectively doing the job would expand the group and give it the title of full Committee on Intelligence Operations. The resolution faces certain opposition, on the grounds that the CIA should be immune from much prying because its activities are so sensitive.

Certainly the senators should not get carried away by the watchdog activities, but there is no reason to believe that responsible, periodic looks at the CIA will hamper its work or threaten national security.

McCarthy is a responsible senator, one whose ability and good judgment has never been seriously questioned. His connection with the watchdog resolution should help to quiet fears about irresponsible probing.

There is sharp disagreement over contentions that the CIA has over stepped its intelligence gathering mission to influence foreign policy. But it is not infallible, and the Benate committee's desire to find out appears justified.